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V CORPS OFFICERS EARN TOP HONORS IN ANNUAL MACARTHUR LEADERSHIP AWARDS COMPETITION

By Jason L. Austin

U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs Office

HEIDELBERG, Germany -- Three V Corps officers will represent U.S. Army Europe at the Department of the Army level of the 2004 General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Awards competition.



JASON L. AUSTIN

V Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez (left) stands with two of the three finalists in the U.S. Army Europe General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Awards competition, at the awards presentation ceremony at Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg, Germany February 17. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ryan N. Collier of the corps' Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Aviation, 1st Infantry Division (center), and Capt. Joseph M. Ewers (right), Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 6th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, along with Capt. John C. Moore of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor, 1st Armored Division, will compete at the Department of the Army level of the competition..

The trio -- Capt. Joseph M. Ewers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry (1st Armored Division); Capt. John C. Moore of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor (1st Armored Division), and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ryan N. Collier of Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Aviation (1st Infantry Division) -- earned top honors out of a group of 15 officers who were winners in the U.S. Army Europe level of the competition. Those winners were honored at a luncheon here February 17.

The winners were selected from a field of 3,200 officers eligible to receive the leadership award. The honor can be earned by junior company-grade officers and junior warrant officers who demonstrate the values of duty, honor and country espoused by MacArthur, a 1902 West Point graduate whose remarkable 49-year military career spanned three wars. The annual awards program began in 1987.

V Corps Commanding General Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez spoke at the awards luncheon, reminding the winners and attendees of the gravity and complexity of the duties of today's officers.

"It is these fine leaders -- these fine warriors -- that will lead our Soldiers and our Army into the future as we continue this global war on terrorism," said Sanchez.

"Every one of us must never forget that it is our solemn responsibility to ensure the training and professional development of our Soldiers."

Officers nominated for the annual award are hand-picked by their commands to compete at their major command level of competition. Nomination packets are sent separately to board members, usually the major command's general officers, who each assign a numerical value to each candidate. The officers with the highest numbers receive the USAREUR-level award. Seven of the 15 officers recognized in this year's USAREUR competition are assigned to V Corps units, including the three selected to represent the command at the DA-level competition. The DA winners are expected to be announced in May.

The full list of winners includes (V Corps winners are noted in boldface type):

Company-grade officers

Capt. David Beaman, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 37th Transportation Command, 21st Theater Support Command

Capt. Joseph M. Ewers, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry (1st Armored Division)

Capt. Scott M. Halter, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 158th Aviation, 12th Aviation Brigade

Capt. William C. Hannan Jr., Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Engineer Brigade

Capt. Deric J. Holbrook, Company A, Task Force 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery (1st Infantry Division)

Capt. John Kilbride, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 508th Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade

Capt. William Linn, Patrol Division, International Special Training Centre, U.S. Army Element, 7th Army Training Command

Capt. John C. Moore, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor (1st Armored Division)

Capt. Anthony T. Murtha, Company B, 1st Battalion, 37th Armor (1st Armored Division)

Capt. Luis Parilli, Detachment A, 38th Personnel Services Battalion, 1st Personnel Command

Capt. Michelle M. Williams, Detachment A, 208th Finance Battalion, 266th Finance Command

Junior warrant officers

Warrant Officer 1 Erica Brinker, 191st Ordnance Battalion, 29th Support Group, 21st Theater Support Command

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ryan N. Collier, Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Aviation (1st Infantry Division)

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jon V. Corey, 159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), 30th Medical Brigade

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Sung K. Lee, Detachment B, 55th Personnel Services Battalion, 1st Personnel Command

